

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7374
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION USNATO
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1789

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CH, AKB
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PRC INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL
PRESENCE IN WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1491, (B) 73 BERLIN A-187

SUMMARY: OUR LATEST INFORMATION SHEDS LITTLE LIGHT ON POSSIBLE
PRC DESIRES TO EXTABLISH MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN. RECENT
PRESS DISCLOSURES OF PRC CONTEMPLATIONS IN THIS AREA HAS
CAUSED THE CHINESE TO BECOME MORE CIRCOMSPECT IN MAKING THEIR
INTENTIONS KNOWN TO INTERESTED PARTIES. WE HAVE DOUBTS THAT
WE WILL GET MORE USEFUL INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER LOCALLY.
SHOULD ALLIED EMBASSIES (IN BONN) BE APPROACHED ON ESTABLISH-
MENT OF PRC PRESENCE IN BERLIN, USBER BELIEVES EMBASSIES
SHOULD ELMINIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC MILITARY MISSION FROM
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RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE UPDATES INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED
SINCE REFTTEL A AND PROVIDES FURTHER ANALYSIS ON BERLIN
ISSUES RELATED TO EXTABLISHMENT POSSIBLE PRC PRESENCE
IN BERLIN.

2. ON 25 JUNE, WELT AM SONNTAG REPORTED ON PRC INTENTIONS TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN. REPORT WENT SOMEWHAT BEYOND INFORMATION WE HAD PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED AND REPORTED REFTEL A. INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

PEKING PLANS A MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN. THE PRC PLANS TO ESTABLISH IN THE NEAR FUTURE A MILITARY MISSION AND CONSULATE IN WEST BERLIN. LATER A COMMERCIAL OFFICE AND PERHAPS A CULTURAL CENTER WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

AS WELT AM SONNTAG LEARNED, MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN ARE ALREADY SEARCHING FOR SUITABLE SITES. PEKING PLANS TO SELL THE FORMER SITE OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY AT 218 KURFERSTENDAMM DUE TO ITS AGE.

UNTIL 1950 THE BUILDING AT 218 KURFERSTENDAMM WAS A MILITARY MISSION OF THE CHANG-KAI-CHEK GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE MILITARY DEFEAT IN THE CIVIL WAR, THE MISSION WAS CLOSED. THE PROPERTY CONTINUED TO BE REGISTERED IN THE LAND REGISTRY TO THE "CHINESE EMPIRE". IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR A CHANGE WAS MADE: THE NAME OF THE TITLEHOLDER IN THE LAND REGISTRY WAS CHANGED TO "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA." BERLIN AUTHORITIES' LEGAL RESERVATIONS WERE EMPHATICALLY REMOVED BY THE ALLIES BEHIND

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THE SCENES.

THE CHINESE HAVE HAD AN EMBASSY IN BONN SINCE 1972. THE OFFICES IN WEST BERLIN ARE SUPPOSED TO BEGIN OPERATING AT THE LATEST WHEN THE USA AND PRC HAVE EXCHANGED AMBASSADORS.

END TEXT.

3. AFTER PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE PART-TIME MISSION LOCAL (SEE REFTEL A) HAD FURTHER CONTACT WITH PRC DIPLOMAT ACCREDITED TO GDR. ON THE WHOLE PRC DIPLOMAT WAS VERY RESERVED. HE WAS THANKFUL THAT PRC'S "FRIENDS" IN THE WEST HAD FACILITATED PRC OBJECTIVES BUT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CONFIRM OR DENY ARTICLE'S DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT PRC PLANS. IN PARTICULAR, PRC DIPLOMAT WAS EMBARRASSED BY ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO PRC DIPLOMATS IN EAST BERLIN LOOKING FOR SITES FOR MILITARY MISSION IN WEST BERLIN. HE STATED THAT PRC DIPLOMATS FROM BONN EMBASSY WHEN THEY COME TO WEST BERLIN GENERALLY USE PRC EMBASSY BERLIN VEHICLES. THIS HAD PROBABLY LED TO ARTICLE'S FAULTY REPORT. PRC DIPLOMAT ALSO STATED THAT ARTICLE IN GENERAL WAS PURE SPECULATION; NEVERTHELESS, AT A LATER DATE THE PRC EMBASSY IN BONN, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE

FOR WEST BERLIN, WOULD COMMENT. HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT
SAY WHEN A COMMENT COULD BE EXPECTED.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OUR OPINION, BASED ON REPORTS FROM
OUR SOURCE, THAT CHINESE IN EAST BERLIN WILL NOT REPEAT
NOT READILY DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER IN BERLIN. WE CON-
SIDER THAT PEKING WAS MUCH DISPLEASED BOTH BY PUBLIC
REVELATION PER SE AND BY PRESS REPORT THAT CHINESE
DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO GDR ARE ENGAGING IN ADVANCE
WORK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINESE PRESENCE IN WEST WHICH
(WE ASSUME) WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS PROPINQUITY TO
CRITICIZE GDR AND SOVIETS. LATTER ASSESSMENT OF CHINESE
PURPOSES BEHIND POSSIBLE PRESENCE IN WESTERN SECOTRS
WAS ESTIMATED IN REF B. WE CONSIDER THIS ASSESSMENT
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STILL VALID.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1789

5. WELT AM SONNTAG ARTICLE IS INACCURATE ON OTHER GROUNDS. ALLIES DID NOT REPEAT NOT "EMPHATICALLY" INFLUENCE BERLIN AUTHORITIES IN ANY WAY IN THIS MATTER. AS SEPTTEL REPORTS, ALLIED INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION TO RE-REGISTER PROPERTY UNDER PRC NAME. FURTHERMORE WE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION THAT BERLIN AUTHORITIES HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT RE-REGISTERING PROPERTY UNDER NAME OF PRC; TO THE CONTRARY, OFFICIAL COURT INQUIRY TO ALLIES REPORTED COURT'S CONCLUSION (BASED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG FOREIGN OFFICE) THAT "PRC" WAS IDENTICAL WITH "CHINESE EMPIRE" AND THAT NAME CHANGE WAS ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL MATTER. (SEE SEPTTEL) END COMMENT.

6. HOW SHOULD ALLIES TREAT A PRC REQUEST TO ESTABLISH (OR RE-ESTABLISH) A MILITARY MISSION IN WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN?. USBEC BELIEVES THAT ANY SUCH REQUEST WHETHER CONFIDENTIAL

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IT BE REGARDED IN TERMS OF AN ESTABLISHMENT OR RE-ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD BE DISFAVORED. REFTEL A PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON ESTABLISHMENT IN IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD OF MILITARY MISSIONS IN BERLIN. SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS WERE PURSUANT TO INVITATION OF FOUR POWERS. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT FOUR POWERS DID NOT LIMIT PERIOD OF EFFECT OF INVITATIONS AND THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE MILITARY MISSIONS IN BERLIN, THERE IS NO PRECEDENT IN FAVOR OR AGAINST THESIS THAT A MILITARY MISSION ONCE CLOSED CAN BE REVIVED. (NOTE: NO CANADIAN WAS RESIDENT IN THEIR MILITARY MISSION FROM DECEMBER 1969/JANUARY 1970 TO EARLY 1973 - IN FACT, BUILDING WAS VACANT AND ALL MISSION'S FURNITURE WAS SOLD - BUT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN BONN CONTINUED TO BE ACCREDITED TO ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN AS HEAD OF CANADIAN MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN). ACCORDINGLY, WERE ALLIES TO FAVOR PRC "REOPENING" OF MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN, IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE SOVIETS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON SUCH AN INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF AN ORIGINALLY FOUR POWER INVITATION.

7. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER THAT PRC PURPOSES FOR COMING TO BERLIN WOULD BE HOSTILE TO THEM. THUS WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SOVIETS WOULD ARGUE THAT FOUR POWER INVITATIONS IN IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD TO ESTABLISH MILITARY MISSIONS IN BERLIN DO NOT JUSTIFY "RE-ESTABLISHMENT" OF MILITARY MISSION WHICH HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED FOR 28 YEARS. (THE TERM "RE-ESTABLISHMENT" IS USED BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS WOULD QUESTION THESIS THAT PRC RATHER THAN ROC IS IDENTICAL WITH CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH INVITATION WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED).

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8. HOWEVER, USBER'S SUGGESTION TO AVOID PRC MILITARY MISSION ESTABLISHMENT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS OF ANY POSSIBLE SOVIET ARGUMENTS ON THE ISSUE. OUR MAIN CONCERN IS THAT IF WE WERE TO FAVOR SUCH ESTABLISHMENT WE WOULD PROVIDE SOVIETS WITH YET ANOTHER MATTER WHICH IN MANY REGARDS CONCERNS ONLY WEST BERLIN BUT ON WHICH THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE SOLID FOUR POWER BASIS TO COMMENT AND TO BEGIN A DEBATE. IN ADDITION, IN THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE PRIMA FACIE BASIS FOR ARGUING (SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO) THAT OPENING A MILITARY MISSION IN 1978 IS ANACHRONISTIC AND CANNOT REASONABLY BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATED BY THE FOUR POWER INVITATION OF 1945 - EVEN IF SUCH OPENING IS REGARDED AS A RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

9. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OPENING OF A PRC CONSULATE, CONGEN, TRADE, CULTURAL OR OTHER OFFICE IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN WOULD BE A SOLELY TRIPARTITE MATTER. SOVIETS COULD, OF COURSE, INTERJECT THEIR VIEWS WERE THE ALLIES TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH OFFICES. HOWEVER, IN SUCH EVENT, SOVIETS COULD (AND IN OUR VIEW SHOULD) BE TOLD THAT MATTER IS OF NO CONCERN TO THEM BUT THOROUGHLY IN COMPETENCE OF ALLIED AUTHORITIES.

10. WHETHER ALLIES WOULD WISH TO PERMIT OFFICIAL PRC PRESENCE IN BERLIN IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER AND THE ULTIMATE QUESTION. THIS QUESTION IS DISTINGUISHABLE FROM QUESTION INVOLVED IN CHINESE PROPERTY ISSUE, SINCE LATTER INVOLVED ISSUE OUTSIDE ALLIED RESERVED AREAS. HOWEVER, ACCREDITATION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES TO BERLIN IS MATTER WHICH ALLIES HAVE RESERVED TO THEMSELVES. IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT CAPITALS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER AN OFFICIAL PRC PRESENCE WOULD BE PERMITTED, AND THAT IN THE LIGHT OF OUR DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE PRC THIS WOULD NOT BE AN EASY TASK. IN THAT CONNECTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE WELT AM SONNTAG REPORT THAT THE PRC OFFICES IN BERLIN ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERATING AT THE LATEST WHEN THE USA AND PRC HAVE EXCHANGED AMBASSADORS. GEORGE

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